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Livestock and Wool

SITUATION

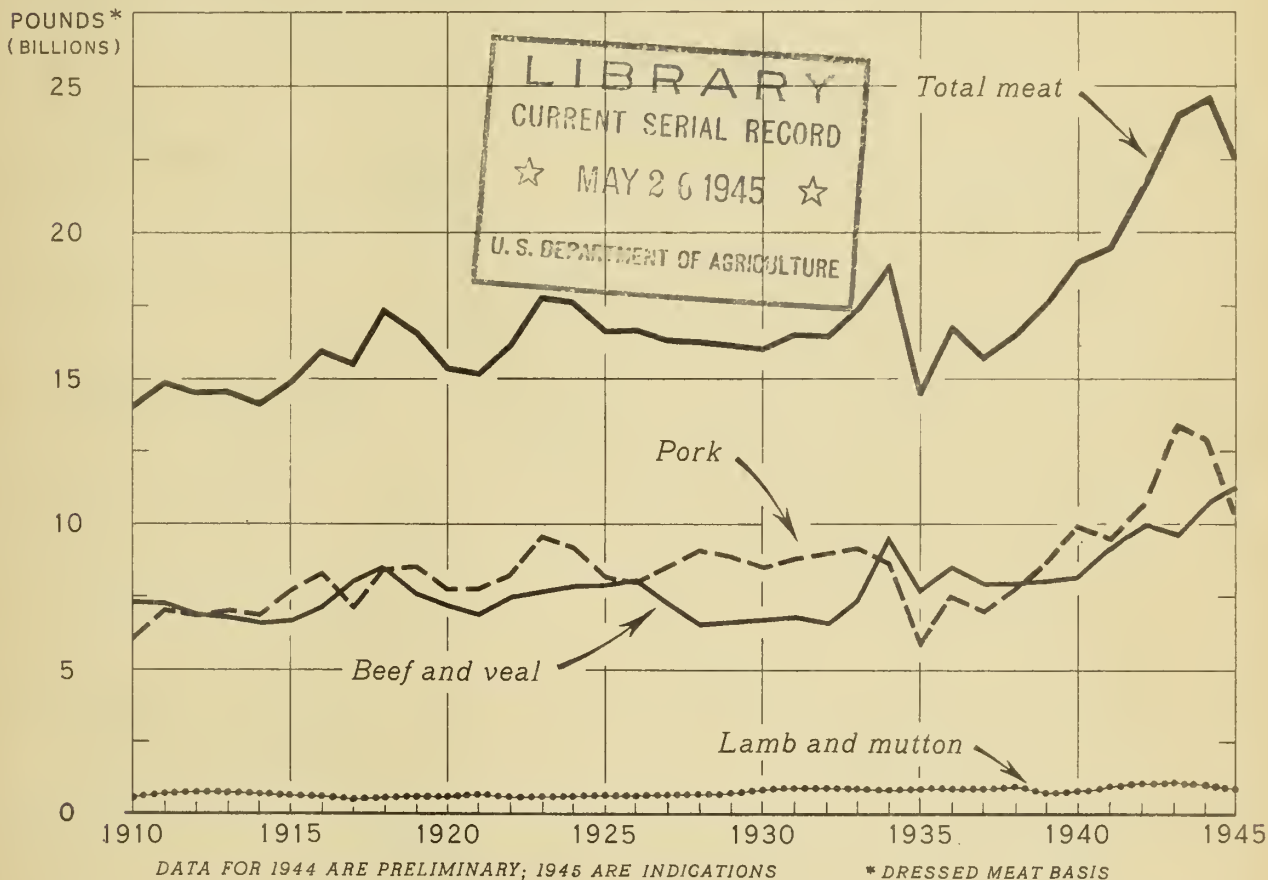
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

LWS - 36



APRIL 1945

MEAT PRODUCTION IN THE UNITED STATES, 1910-45



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

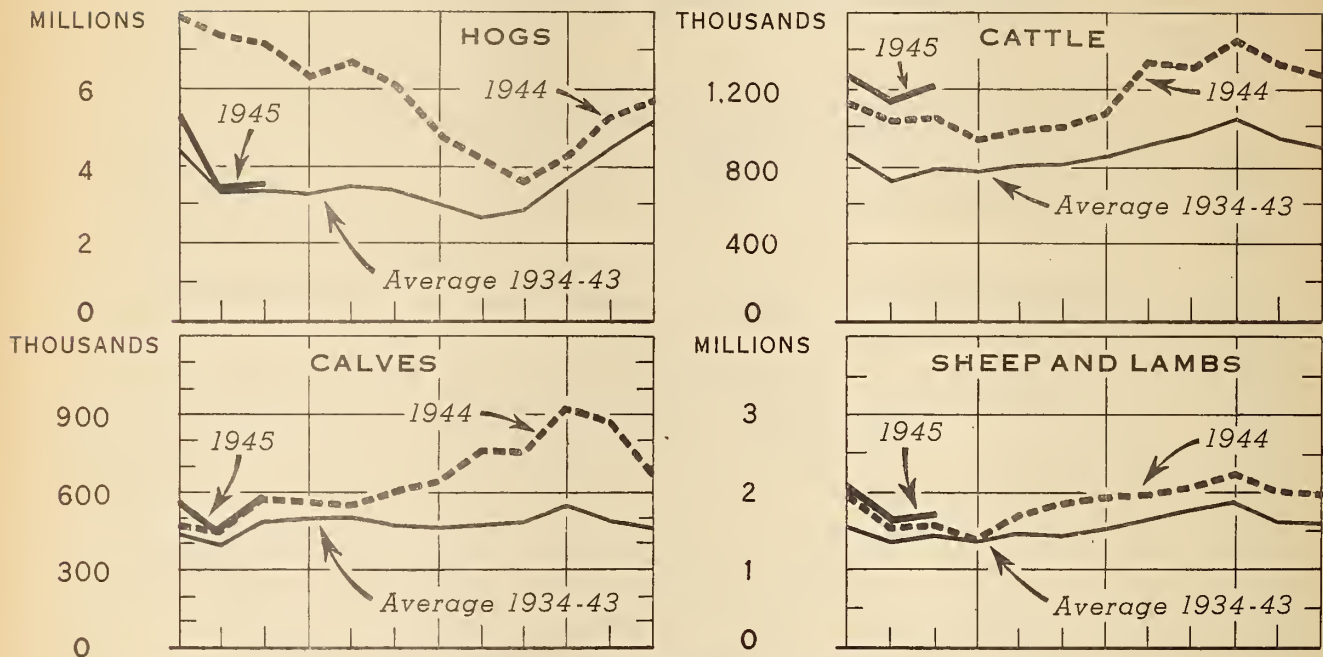
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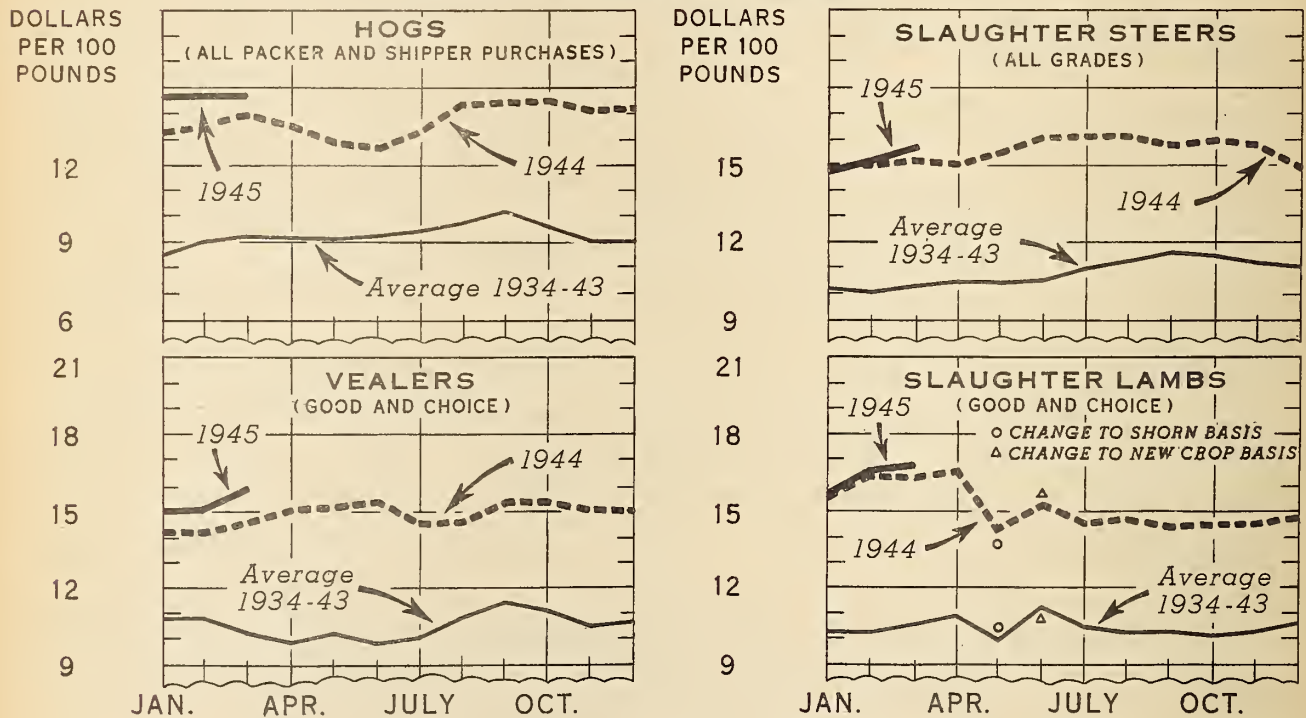
Meat production in 1945 is indicated to be about 22.5 billion pounds (dressed-meat basis), about 9 percent less than the 24.6 billion pounds produced in 1944. Production of beef and veal in 1945 may be about 5 percent larger than the previous high of 10.7 billion pounds in 1944. Pork production increased from the comparatively low level of 7.3 billion pounds in 1935-39 to a high of 13.3 billion pounds in 1943; it was reduced slightly in 1944, and for 1945 output is indicated at 10.3 billion pounds, 20 percent smaller than in 1944 and 23 percent smaller than in 1943. Output of lamb and mutton in 1945 may total about 930 million pounds, about 10 percent less than in 1944.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER AND PRICES

FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER, UNITED STATES



MARKET PRICES AT CHICAGO



L I V E S T O C K A N D W O O L S I T U A T I O N

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SUMMARY

Meat output in 1945 probably will total around 22.5 billion pounds, (dressed-meat basis), 9 percent less than the record production of 24.6 billion pounds in 1944. This output, however, would still be about 39 percent above the average of 16.2 billion pounds for 1935-39. The sharp reduction in meat output in 1945 compared with 1944 is largely the result of a 29-percent reduction in the size of the 1944 pig crop.

Slaughter of hogs in the first quarter of 1945 fell about 30 percent below the record slaughter for the 3 months a year earlier. Hog slaughter is expected to continue around 30 percent less than in 1944 during the remainder of the hog marketing year (through September) but slaughter in the October-December quarter may be nearly equal to that of a year earlier. Because of higher average weights of hogs slaughtered and reduced lard yields, pork production will be reduced less than hog slaughter. Production of pork for the year is now estimated at around 10.3 billion pounds, about 20 percent less than the large production in 1944 and 23 percent less than the record production in 1943.

Slaughter of cattle and calves may set a new record this year. Total slaughter may be around 35 million head, compared with the previous record of 33.7 million in 1944 and 24.7 million, the average for 1935-39. Slaughter

of cattle and calves ran ahead of last year through March, and is expected to continue relatively large throughout the spring and summer. On April 1 there were an estimated 8 percent more cattle on feed for market in 11 Corn Belt States than a year earlier. There probably were fewer cattle on feed in the Western States and on pastures in the Flint Hills-Osage area than a year earlier. But the number on wheat pastures in the Southern Plains States was larger. Despite higher average prices paid for feeder steers and hay, returns from cattle feeding in the Corn Belt during the past winter probably were higher than a year earlier for most feeders, but were much below those of the previous two feeding seasons.

With an expected reduction in the lamb crop this year from last and a reduction in the number of ewes and yearling wethers to be slaughtered, sheep and lamb slaughter may total about 22.5 million head in 1945 compared with 25.3 million head in 1944. While slaughter in the first 4 months of the year was an all-time high for the season, slaughter in the last 8 months probably will total less than a year earlier.

Because of reduced meat production and a continued strong demand, prices of meat animals will average higher in 1945 than in 1944.

A plan to improve meat pricing and distribution programs was announced by the Office of Economic Stabilization on April 23. To encourage an increase in cattle feeding, the scheduled reduction in the over-riding ceiling price for cattle and calves after midyear, from \$18.00 to \$17.50 per 100 pounds, Chicago basis, was cancelled. To facilitate more equitable distribution of meat, quotas will be set by OPA for nonfederally inspected commercial slaughter, all custom slaughter and for sales of farm-produced meat. To relieve a squeeze on packers' margins, larger slaughter payments will be made to cattle slaughterers for the three higher grades of cattle. Payments to

hog slaughterers or ceiling prices for pork products, or both, will be adjusted, with the final determination to be made after further study. Meanwhile payments to hog slaughterers have been increased temporarily. Ceiling prices for beef sold to Government agencies have been increased. An intensified enforcement campaign is to be waged against the black market in meat.

The CCC is supporting the 1945 domestic wool clip at clean prices, which are substantially the same as in 1944. The average price received by farmers for grease wool this year, however, may differ from the 1944 weighted average price of 42.4 cents if the average quality or shrinkage of the 1945 production differs from that of last year. Approximately 292 million pounds (grease basis), or 45 percent, of the domestic wool purchased by the CCC during the first 2 years of the Government purchase program remained unsold on March 31, 1945. Sales during the past year totaled 263 million pounds (grease basis) compared with an estimated domestic production of 418 million pounds.

Large Army orders for wool fabrics, most of which call for the use of at least 50 percent domestic wool, should provide an outlet for a much larger quantity of domestic wool during the first half of the 1945 selling season (April-September) than in the corresponding months last year. But use of domestic wool probably will decline when current large military requirements have been filled. Little domestic wool is now used in civilian fabrics because prices of domestic wool are considerably higher than prices of comparable foreign wool. Total United States consumption of domestic and foreign apparel wool in 1945 seems likely to remain about at the 1944 annual level of 1 billion pounds (grease basis).

--- April 25, 1945

OUTLOOK

1945 Meat Output to be About 9 Percent
Smaller Than a Year Earlier

Largely reflecting a sharp drop in hog slaughter, meat production in 1945 is now indicated at about 22.5 billion pounds (dressed-meat basis), around 9 percent less than the record production of 24.6 billion pounds in 1944. This output, however, would still be about 39 percent larger than the 16.2 billion-pound average in 1935-39. Output of beef and veal is expected to set a new record this year, totaling about 11.2 billion pounds, approximately 5 percent more than the previous high in 1944. On the other hand, production of lamb and mutton may total around 930 million pounds, 9 percent less than in 1944. Total pork output in 1945 is now indicated at about 10.3 billion pounds, 20 percent smaller than in 1944 and 23 percent smaller than in 1943. The number of hogs slaughtered in 1944 was 1.6 million head greater than in 1943. But because of lower average weights and lower yields of pork per hog, pork production in 1944 was less than in 1943.

Table 1.- Estimated meat and lard production, average 1935-39,
 annual 1941-44, and forecast 1945

Item	Average : 1935-39 :	1941	1942	1943	1944 1/ :	1945 (forecast)
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Beef:		Meat production (dressed-meat basis)				
Inspected	2/ 4,847	5,739	6,347	5,970	6,655	
Noninspected	1,858	2,126	2,249	2,340	2,274	
Farm	231	227	235	213	208	
Total	6,936	8,092	8,831	8,523	9,137	9,590
Veal:						
Inspected	2/ 615	599	667	597	926	
Noninspected	335	354	399	480	582	
Farm	88	76	73	83	87	
Total	1,038	1,029	1,139	1,160	1,595	1,640
Pork, excluding lard:						
Inspected	4,584	6,345	7,562	9,308	9,456	
Noninspected	1,037	1,473	1,571	2,260	1,682	
Farm	1,716	1,629	1,590	1,781	1,755	
Total	7,337	9,447	10,723	13,349	12,893	10,300
Lamb and mutton:						
Inspected	696	750	880	958	887	
Noninspected	148	150	140	122	114	
Farm	27	25	25	24	22	
Total	871	925	1,045	1,104	1,023	930
Total meat, excl. lard:						
Inspected	10,742	13,433	15,456	16,833	17,924	
Noninspected	3,378	4,103	4,359	5,202	4,652	
Farm	2,062	1,957	1,923	2,101	2,072	
Total	16,182	19,493	21,738	24,136	24,648	22,460
		Lard production				
Lard and rendered pork fat:						
Inspected	944	1,526	1,724	2,080	2,367	
Noninspected	219	312	312	492	368	
Farm	467	443	433	485	480	
Total 3/	1,630	2,281	2,469	3,056	3,215	2,300

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Includes an estimated 57 million pounds of beef and 5 million pounds of veal produced under the emergency Government relief purchase program in 1935. 3/ Total of unrounded numbers.

Table 2.- Estimated livestock slaughter, average 1935-39,
annual 1941-44, and forecast 1945

Item	: Average : : 1935-39 :	1941	: 1942 :	1943	: 1944 : : 1/ :	1945 :(forecast)
	:Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
Cattle:						
Inspected	2/ 10,024	10,946	12,347	11,727	13,960	
Noninspected ...	4,455	4,916	5,047	5,416	5,532	
Farm	591	571	587	572	573	
Total	15,070	16,433	17,981	17,715	20,065	20,900
Calves:						
Inspected	2/ 5,765	5,461	5,760	5,209	7,770	
Noninspected ...	3,117	3,107	3,317	3/ 4,111	3/ 5,247	
Farm	804	624	625	594	603	
Total	9,686	9,252	9,702	9,914	13,620	14,000
Hogs:						
Inspected	34,262	46,520	53,897	63,431	69,017	
Noninspected ...	8,871	12,038	12,117	3/ 17,779	3/ 14,016	
Farm	13,656	12,789	12,463	14,063	13,816	
Total	56,789	71,397	78,477	95,273	96,849	75,500
Sheep and lambs:						
Inspected	17,486	18,125	21,625	23,363	21,876	
Noninspected ...	3,699	3,605	3,383	3,134	2,918	
Farm	624	582	578	573	549	
Total	21,809	22,312	25,586	27,070	25,343	22,500

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Includes 187,000 cattle and 39,000 calves in 1935, and 4,000 cattle in 1936 slaughtered for Government account.

3/ Probably includes an indeterminable number of animals slaughtered on farms for nonfarmers and slaughtered by or for nonfarmers for their own use.

Cattle and Calf Slaughter in 1945 to be a Record

Cattle and calf slaughter in 1945 probably will total around 35 million head compared with 33.7 million in 1944 and 24.7 million, the average for 1935-39. Combined cattle and calf slaughter in comparable federally inspected plants during January-March 1945 totaled 4.3 million head, 3 percent more than a year earlier. Inspected cattle slaughter was 4 percent greater, while inspected calf slaughter was slightly below the record high slaughterings in January-March 1944. Reports of the kill of noninspected commercial cattle and calf slaughterers during the first 2 months of the year indicate that slaughter of both cattle and calves was larger than a year earlier, with a larger proportion of the total being handled in noninspected plants.

Slaughter of cattle and calves through the spring and summer probably will continue relatively large. The number of cattle on feed in the Corn Belt on April 1 was 8 percent larger than a year earlier. Throughout the country pastures are in excellent condition. If these favorable conditions continue, a fairly large supply of grain-fed cattle will be marketed this spring and

summer, and grass-fat cattle will be in market condition earlier than usual, which would add to the supply for slaughter during the summer. Cattlemen marketed record numbers of calves last year, and as most of the conditions that brought about this large slaughter in 1944 exist at present, calf slaughter probably will continue at or near record levels. Slaughter of cows and heifers probably will continue large as cattle raisers tend to reduce the size of breeding herds.

Hog Slaughter Much Lower than a Year Earlier

Hog slaughter for 1945 is now indicated at about 75.5 million head compared with 96.8 million in 1944, the all-time high. Slaughter of hogs during the first quarter of 1945 in comparable federally inspected plants was 47 percent below that of a year earlier. However, slaughter in nonfederally inspected plants was greater. Total slaughter in the first quarter apparently was about 30 percent less this year than last.

Supplies of hogs for slaughter during the remainder of the hog-marketing year (through September) probably will continue about 30 percent below those of the corresponding period a year earlier.

Slaughter supplies of hogs during the last quarter of 1945 will be largely dependant on the size of the 1945 spring pig crop. An analysis of farmers' breeding intentions reported about December 1 indicated that 8.5 million sows would be bred for farrow this spring, 7 percent below farrowings last spring. If these intentions are borne out, slaughter during the last quarter of the year would be moderately smaller than a year earlier. Since November, the hog-corn price ratio has become more favorable to hog producers.

The reduction in pork output in 1945 will not be as great as the reduction in numbers of hogs slaughtered. The average yield of pork per hog slaughtered under Federal inspection during the first 2 months of 1945 was 145 pounds, 5 pounds greater than a year earlier and was nearly an all-time high for the season. This accompanied a low yield of lard per hog as slaughterers sold a large proportion of their fat cuts rather than rendering them. The average live weight of hogs slaughtered was 3 pounds less than a year earlier. Since February, market weights of hogs have been at record levels. With a more favorable hog-corn price ratio than a year ago and ample feed-grain supplies, hog weights will tend to continue heavy.

Sheep and Lamb Slaughter in 1945 to Fall Below that of 1944

Slaughter of sheep and lambs in 1945 probably will be around 22.5 million head, about 10 percent below that of 1944. Smaller slaughter in 1945 will result largely from a reduced lamb crop. The early spring lamb crop, largely marketed in April-June, was estimated to be 6 percent less than a year earlier. With a 6-percent reduction in the number of ewes on hand at the beginning of this year, the late crop probably will be smaller also. Sheep slaughter, although smaller than a year earlier, is expected to continue relatively large.

Sheep and lamb slaughter set a record for the season during the first 4 months of 1945, but slaughter during the last 8 months of the year probably will be smaller than a year earlier. In comparable plants the January-March inspected slaughter was 5.0 million head, 6 percent more than a year earlier. The record slaughter was partly a result of a large number of sheep and lambs on feed and a continuing liquidation of stock sheep - largely ewes. The number of sheep and lambs on feed January 1 was an estimated 1-1/2 percent larger than a year earlier and was only 5 percent less than the record number on feed on January 1, 1943. Slaughter of mature sheep was relatively large, comprising 14 percent of the federally inspected total for the quarter compared with 11 percent a year earlier and 6 percent, the average for the corresponding period in 1937-41.

New-crop lambs were marketed in volume from California and Arizona during March. March and early April weather was favorable to the development of the crop and the condition of early lambs on April 1 was as high as it ever has been on that date. While March weather was not so favorable for maximum gains in the Pacific Northwest, feed supplies were ample and heavy precipitation greatly improved prospects for range feed. Marketings of lambs from Texas, where the number of ewes increased last year, are expected to be larger than a year earlier in May and June, but marketings of grass-fat yearlings are expected to be smaller.

Cattle Feeding Larger than a Year Earlier

Since 1939 about 4 to 4.5 million cattle a year have been fed for market in the Corn Belt. Cattle feeding in this area probably has accounted for about four-fifths of the total number fed in the United States. The increase in the weight of cattle during the grain-feeding operation in the Corn Belt has been equal to about 8 percent of the annual beef and veal production.

An estimated 3,373,000 cattle and calves were on feed for market in the 12 Corn Belt States at the beginning of 1945, up 6 percent from the 3,184,000 on feed January 1 a year earlier and up 37 percent from the average for 1932-41 of 2,471,000. Marketings of fed cattle from these States were larger in January-March this year than last, but constituted a smaller percentage of the number on feed January 1 than a year earlier. Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle into the Corn Belt during the first 3 months of 1945 were substantially larger than in the same period last year, but were below the record in-shipments for the period in 1943.

On April 1, an estimated 8 percent more cattle and calves - equivalent to around 150,000 head - were on feed in the 11 Corn Belt States than a year earlier, when the number on feed was the lowest for that date since 1940 but higher than for most years in the 1930's. An estimated 13 percent more cattle were on feed in the Western Corn Belt on April 1 than a year earlier. On the other hand, the number on feed in the Eastern Corn Belt was 6 percent less than on April 1, 1944.

Table 3.- Number of cattle on feed in 11 Corn Belt States,
April 1, 1945 as a percentage of April 1, 1944

State and region	Percent		State and region	Percent
Ohio	86	::	Minnesota	130
Indiana	80	::	Iowa	99
Illinois	98	::	Missouri	110
Michigan	88	::	South Dakota	140
Wisconsin	115	::	Nebraska	125
		::	Kansas	145
Eastern Corn Belt	94	::	Western Corn Belt	113
		::		

There probably were fewer cattle on feed in the Western States April 1 this year than last. There were more cattle on wheat pastures in the Southern Plains States. In the Osage-Flint Hills section of Oklahoma and Kansas, pasture feed prospects are the best in many years. The number of cattle wintered in this area was slightly smaller than a year earlier, but was relatively large.

Returns From Cattle Feeding During
Current Season Indicated Slightly
Higher Than a Year Earlier

Despite higher average prices paid for feeder steers and hay, returns from cattle feeding in the Corn Belt during the past winter probably were higher for most operators than a year earlier, but were much below those of the previous two feeding seasons. During March and early April prices for fed cattle were moderately higher than a year earlier. With a continued strong demand for beef of all grades, prices for fed cattle probably will be maintained at a comparatively high level through the remainder of the year.

In the past 2 years, relatively high feed and labor costs, and relatively high prices for the lower grades of slaughter cattle, have tended to bring about the feeding of a larger-than-usual proportion of cattle for a short feed. Extremely strong competition by slaughterers for fleshy feeders or "two way" cattle will tend to hold prices for such cattle at a higher level than a year ago throughout the summer at least. Relatively high feeding costs and the long time operation involved have discouraged the feeding of calves. This tendency is likely to continue this year. The trend toward the shorter feeding of cattle and the preference by cattle feeders for cattle carrying weight and finish probably will continue also.

Table 4.- Specified average prices and costs in the feeding of steers in the Corn Belt, 1940-45

Item	Season				Price per unit
	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44	1944-45
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Average price per 100 pounds for Good grade beef steers sold out of first hands, Chicago, March-May	10.91	13.50	15.81	15.43	1/ 15.81
Average cost of feeder steers at Kansas City per 100 pounds, September-November	8.58	9.62	12.03	11.38	11.60
Average price per bushel of corn, North Central States, September-April548	.688	.814	1.029	2/ 1.004
Average price per ton received by farmers for alfalfa hay, loose, North Central States, September-April	8.23	10.57	11.01	16.39	2/ 17.89
Average price per 100 pounds paid by farmers for cotton-seed meal, U. S., September-April	1.79	2.45	2.40	3.00	2/ 3.08
	Total value				
Market value at Chicago of Good grade beef steers, market weight (1,050 pounds)	114.56	141.75	166.00	162.02	166.00
Market cost at Kansas City of 700 pound feeder steers	60.06	67.34	84.21	79.66	81.20
Cost of transportation from market to feeder	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
Cost of 55 bushels of corn	30.14	37.84	44.77	56.60	55.22
Cost of 0.75 ton of alfalfa hay, loose	6.17	7.93	8.26	12.29	13.42
Cost of 50 pounds of cottonseed meal90	1.22	1.20	1.50	1.54
Transportation and marketing expense	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Total of cost items shown 2/	105.77	122.83	146.94	158.55	159.88
Margin of market value of steer over total of cost items shown 2/	8.79	18.92	19.06	3.47	6.12

1/ March average. 2/ September-March average.

3/ Does not include overhead costs, cost of other feed ingredients, or credits for manure and for hogs following steers. The feed ration and prices shown are designed to be fairly representative of average feeding experience in the Corn Belt, but probably do not coincide with the experience of individual feeders.

Meat Animal Prices toContinue High

A continuing high level of meat animal prices is in prospect throughout the summer at least. Demand for meat, at ceiling prices, by the armed forces and by domestic consumers will far exceed available supplies. Increased meat needs by the armed forces will more than offset reduced meat procurement for lend-lease shipment. Hence, with a reduced total meat supply and a low level of stocks, civilian meat supplies this spring and summer will be at the lowest level since the beginning of the war and probably the lowest since the summer of 1938.

Prices of meat animals will average higher in 1945 than in 1944. Hog prices probably will continue at the ceiling level, and prices of cattle, calves, and lambs will continue higher than a year earlier throughout most of 1945.

Table 5.- Meat animals: Average price per 100 pounds received by farmers, United States, average 1935-39, 1942-45

Item	Average 1935-39	1942	1943	1944	Average Jan.-Mar.	
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	1944	1945
Hogs	8.30	13.04	13.70	13.10	12.87	13.93
Beef cattle	6.51	10.62	11.90	10.80	11.60	12.03
Veal calves	7.75	12.45	13.50	12.60	12.97	13.50
Sheep	3.90	5.78	6.57	6.05	6.49	6.51
Lambs	7.81	11.74	12.90	12.60	13.07	13.47

GOVERNMENT ACTIONS

Changes in Ceiling Prices
for Cattle and Beef

The Economic Stabilization Director, on April 23, announced a plan, worked out in cooperation with the Office of Price Administration, War Food Administration, and War Department, to improve meat price and distribution programs.

An inducement for increased cattle feeding the previously scheduled reduction in the overriding ceiling on cattle and calves in midyear from \$18.00 to \$17.50 per 100 pounds, Chicago basis, the decrease of 50 cents per 100 pounds in the maximum and minimum prices, and the decrease in the subsidy on choice cattle, will not take place. The present ceiling prices on beef cattle will continue unchanged.

An increase of 25 cents per 100 pounds is authorized in the ceiling prices of carcass beef sold to the Government of the choice, good, and commercial grades. For Army frozen boneless beef a 35-cent increase is granted. This increase in price together with the increase in subsidy on the three upper grades as outlined below will tend to widen the spread in value between higher and lower grades of cattle which will tend to improve feeding margins.

Cattle Slaughter Payment
Rates Increased

Effective about May 1 subsidy payments to processing slaughterers when cattle costs are at the maximum of the stabilization price range will be: Choice, \$2.75; good, \$2.70; commercial, \$1.65; utility, canner, and cutter, \$1.00 per 100 pounds liveweight (calculated from dressed weight using standard conversion factors). These rates represent a further increase of 25 cents per 100 pounds on the choice, good, and commercial grades above the 50-cent increase granted April 1, for all grades, when cattle are selling at the maximum of the price ranges. Under the new regulation, payments will be reduced by 2 cents for a 3-cent decline in cost toward the lower limit of the stabilization cost range. Since the spread between the minimum and maximum stabilization range price for each grade is \$1.50 per 100 pounds, the maximum possible deduction in payments for purchases within the stabilization range is \$1.00.

The special 80-cent per 100 pounds, liveweight, payment to non-processing cattle slaughterers will be continued. Such slaughterers will not be eligible for the 50-cent increase in slaughter payments which became effective April 4 but will receive a 25-cent increase for the three top grades to become effective about May 1. The withdrawal provisions depending on the cost of cattle will apply to subsidy payments received by the non-processing slaughterers except the 80-cent differential subsidy. Continuance of the 80-cent non-processing slaughter payment will depend upon an accounting study being made by OPA as to the profit position of slaughterers of this group.

One feature of the new OES program is a special adjustment designed to make certain that no slaughterer of livestock who operated at a profit within the period 1938-41 will be forced to operate at a loss in 1945. This adjustment, applicable to slaughterers of all species of livestock, will take the form of a special slaughter payment to be paid by the Defense Supplies Corporation on certification by the Office of Price Administration.

Adjustment in Hog Slaughter Payments

OPA plans to announce on or before May 10, 1945 if an increase in hog slaughter payments is necessary to yield profit to hog slaughterers. Any increase which should prove necessary will be retroactive to April 1, 1945. If a final determination is not made by May 10, an interim slaughter payment of 40 cents per 100 pounds beginning April 1 will be made subject to later adjustment.

Quotas on Noninspected Slaughter
and Farm Meat Sales

All nonfederally inspected commercial slaughterers and persons who have livestock custom slaughtered commercially will be required to register with the district offices of the OPA and will be assigned slaughter quotas in 1945 based upon their meat production and the number of ration points surrendered to OPA in corresponding accounting periods in 1944. Provision is being made to increase quotas if absolutely essential to assure a community getting its fair share of meat. The control of slaughter in nonfederally inspected plants is designed to aid in Government procurement and to improve meat distribution by moving a larger proportion of meat through federally inspected plants into deficit meat-producing areas.

Farm slaughterers will not be permitted to sell more dressed meat in any quarter this year than in the corresponding quarter of 1944. To sell meat a farmer is required to register with his local War Price and Rationing Board. Farmers will be required to report their sales and account for red ration points. Farmers who sold no meat in 1944 may, if they register, sell up to 400 pounds of meat in 1945. A farm slaughterer is defined as a resident operator of a farm who in 1944 sold not more than 6,000 pounds of meat produced from his own slaughter or from livestock custom slaughtered for him.

The Office of Economic Stabilization directed OPA to prepare a plan for more equitable distribution of slaughter among federally-inspected slaughterers if such action proves necessary. Any such plan will only be put into effect when and if the Economic Stabilization Director so authorizes.

New Quotas Set for Subsidy Payments to Noninspected Slaughterers

As a further step to channel more livestock through federally inspected plants, the War Food Administration, on April 20, set new percentages for determining subsidy payments to nonfederally inspected slaughterers. For accounting periods beginning after April 29, 1945, such slaughterers may collect subsidies for cattle and calves slaughtered up to 75 percent of the liveweight for which they collected a subsidy in corresponding months of 1944. For hogs, payments will be calculated on up to 50 percent of the liveweight on which a payment was made in corresponding months a year ago. For the first time payments to noninspected sheep and lamb slaughterers are limited to 100 percent of the liveweight for which payments were received in corresponding periods of 1944. These changes are contained in Amendment 2 to WFO 126-1. Before this order was issued, the percentage for cattle and calves was 100 and for hogs 50.

Hog Support Price Raised; Larger Fall Pig Goal Announced

The War Food Administration announced, April 11, an increase in the support price for hogs, and urged farmers to increase fall farrowings 18 percent over those of 1944. The goal for the fall pig crop was raised to 37 million head. The hog support price was increased from \$12.50 to \$13.00 per 100 pounds, Chicago basis, for good and choice butcher hogs, all weights up to 270 pounds. On April 25, the weight range for price support purposes was increased to 300 pounds. The new support price became effective at the time of announcement and will continue to September 1, 1946. The previous support price covered only 200 to 270-pound butcher hogs effective to March 31, 1946.

At the same time the Office of Price Administration announced that there would be no reduction before September 1, 1946 in the present ceiling prices for live hogs except necessary regional adjustments. Such ceilings, on the basis of Chicago prices, are \$14.75 per 100 pounds for barrows and gilts and \$14.00 for sows.

The national goal set for the fall pig crop was revised upward from 33 to 37 million head, which would be 18 percent larger than the 1944 fall crop, totaling 31.3 million head. If the goal is achieved, the fall crop this year would be exceeded only by the record fall crop of 1943 totaling 47.7 million head and the near record 1942 fall crop of 43.7 million head.

A large fall pig crop is possible since a substantial increase in feed grain reserves is in prospect for the end of the current season compared with last, the hog-corn price ratio has been favorable to hog producers since last fall, and the demand for pork is expected to continue strong well into 1946. Hogs from the 1945 fall pig crop will be marketed largely from late April through September 1946.

If farmers carry out their planting intentions as indicated on March 1, the combined acreage of the four principal feed grains--corn, oats, barley, sorghum grains--in 1945 will approximate 163 million acres. This will be a decrease of about 1.5 percent from the 1944 acreage, but 5 percent more than the 1939-43 average. If yields, by States, turn out about average for recent typical years, production of the four feed grains on such an acreage would total about 119 million tons, only about 2 million tons less than the large production in 1944.

Cattle Ceiling Price Regulations Revised

The requirement that all cattle are to be weighed in the determination of maximum prices was amended on April 13, so that ceilings may now be calculated from the estimated liveweight when no suitable scales are available at the point of the sale. Also provision is made for the selling of crippled and "down" cattle at markets on a head basis even if scales are available. Sales of cattle or calves for serum or vaccine production were specifically exempt from the maximum price provisions, as are sales of cattle or calves to non-slaughterers for feeding for more than 30 days. These changes in the maximum price regulation for cattle and calves (MPR 574) appear in Amendment 2. When cattle or calves are sold without weighing, both the buyer and seller are required to estimate the weight. The price per 100 pounds paid on the estimated weight must be at least \$2.00 per 100 pounds below the overall ceiling for sales made on an actual weight basis.

Bull Prices to be Calculated Separately Under Cattle Stabilization Plan

Effective April 4, bull prices are to be calculated separately and also are to be included with all cattle in computing maximum permissible cost under the cattle stabilization plan (Amendment 1, MPR 574). The maximum permissible cost of bulls slaughtered in a monthly period by any one slaughterer is determined by the maximum price ranges applicable to the various grades of bulls. Since bull beef cannot be graded above the commercial grade, maximum prices by grades will be the applicable maximum prices, based upon a slaughterer's location, for commercial and utility cattle and for bulls of canner and cutter grade. Slaughterers of bulls would be in violation of OPA regulations if the total cost of bulls exceeded the calculated maximum permissible cost.

To make enforcement of the ceilings easier, the OPA regulations now forbid any person (operators of auction markets, for example) to negotiate the sale or purchase of live cattle and calves at prices above the over-riding ceilings.

Increase in Proportion of Good and Choice
Cattle That May be Slaughtered

The Office of Price Administration increased the percentage of good and choice grade beef that individual slaughterers may produce and deliver in the April, May, and June accounting periods. The new percentages set for zones A and B are 90 and for zone C the percentage set is 75. Zone A includes roughly the Western States, Zone B the Northeastern States, and Zone C Southeastern States. The percentages applicable for the February and March accounting periods were 75 for zones A and B, and 50 for zone C.

Wholesale Pork Price Ceilings Increased
for Sales to Government Agencies

Effective March 27, OPA granted higher ceiling prices for several pork items sold to Government agencies ranging from 50 cents to \$1.50 per 100 pounds. No increases were granted for wholesale sales through regular trade channels.

The increases in ceiling prices for sales to war procurement agencies are:

- (1) Dressed Hogs -- 50 cents per 100 pounds;
- (2) Cured Wiltshires -- 75 cents per 100 pounds;
- (3) Scalded Wiltshires (frozen in sacks) -- 50 cents per 100 pounds;
- (4) Overseas and Export Hams (long cure), and Overseas Bacon -- \$1.00 per 100 pounds;
- (5) Pure pork sausage -- \$1.50 per 100 pounds.
- (6) An addition of 25 cents per 100 pounds for freezer shrinkage on sales of fresh or green wholesale pork cuts, including Scalded Wiltshires (frozen in sacks) sold frozen at frozen weights to war procurement agencies and to licensed ship suppliers and ship operators; and
- (7) An addition of 25 cents per 100 pounds for freezer shrinkage on sales of fresh or frozen dressed hogs sold frozen at frozen weights to war procurement agencies.

Increased Beef Set-Aside

Because of seasonally reduced production of utility, canner and cutter beef and continuing large Army requirements for canned beef products, the set-aside on utility grade beef was increased from 70 to 80 percent on April 1. The set-aside on canner and cutter beef is 80 percent, unchanged since October 15, 1944. The beef reservation order applies only to regular federally inspected plants and those cattle slaughterers who have limited inspection on their cattle kills.

WFA Reduces Pork Set-Aside

Effective April 1, the pork set-aside required of federally inspected slaughterers was reduced slightly. As amended, the set-aside order (WFO 75-3, Amendment 11) requires that the quantity of pork to be reserved for Government purchase will be 28-1/2 percent of the liveweight hog slaughter. The previous set-aside was 30-1/2 percent. In addition to the set-aside on pork, the lard set-aside equals 5-1/2 percent of the liveweight hog slaughter. However, no lard set-aside is in effect in the three Pacific Coast States, the New England States, and in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, and Utah.

The set-aside on Wiltshire sides and frozen pork sides, formerly 4-1/2 percent of liveweight, was removed April 1. The set-aside on fat cuts was reduced 1 percentage point to 1-1/2 percent of the total liveweight of slaughter. But the set-aside percentages on loins, hams, and shoulders were increased 1 percentage point, and on bellies 1/2 percentage point.

The specific set-asides now in effect as a percentage of the liveweight slaughter are: Hams, 6; loins, 5-1/2; bellies, 5-1/2; shoulders and lean pork trimmings, 10; and salted fat cuts, 1-1/2. The pork set-aside is equivalent to about 51 to 52 percent of the federally inspected pork output.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTSMarch Cattle Slaughter All-Time High
for Month; Prices Increase
Moderately in March and April

March cattle slaughter in comparable federally inspected plants was the highest on record for the month. Such slaughter was 4 percent higher than in February and was 5 percent higher than in March 1944. March slaughter of calves in comparable federally inspected plants showed a gain of 30 percent from February, but was 5 percent less than the all-time high for March last year. Cow and heifer slaughter made up a relatively large part of the total inspected plant slaughter in January and February. Such slaughter accounted for 54 percent of the total for the 2 months this year compared with 47 percent a year earlier and 45 percent in the corresponding period of 1942. Of the cows and heifers slaughtered this January and February under Federal inspection, 26 percent were canners and cutters compared with 32 percent a year earlier.

Prime steers were sold at Chicago for \$17.85 during the week ended April 21 to set a new top for the year, only 15 cents below the overall ceiling. Prices for good grade slaughter steers during the same week averaged \$15.99, about the same as a month earlier and about 65 cents higher than a year earlier. Prices for common slaughter steers during the same week averaged only slightly lower than a month earlier but about 76 cents higher than a year earlier. During the first 3 weeks in April, cow prices in general were at the highest levels ever recorded. During the week ended April 21, prices for the good grade at Chicago averaged \$15.00 compared with \$14.50 a month earlier and \$13.15 a year earlier. During this period some of the best cows sold as high as \$16.00, a new peak for the season.

March Hog Slaughter Lowest Since 1939;
Prices at Ceilings

Hog slaughter in comparable federally inspected plants in March was 6 percent greater than in February but was 53 percent less than in March 1944, which was an all-time high for the month. March 1945 slaughter was the lowest for the month since 1939.

All hogs, except those of strictly low yield and poor quality continued to sell at the ceiling level during the first 3 weeks of April.

Average market weights of hogs during April were the highest on record. The average weight of all barrows and gilts sold at 7 markets during the week ended April 21 was 259 pounds, compared with 256 pounds a month earlier and 232 pounds a year earlier.

March Sheep and Lamb Slaughter 9 Percent
Greater than a Year Earlier; Lamb
Prices Seasonally High

Federally inspected sheep slaughter in March increased 6 percent from a month earlier (in comparable plants), and was 9 percent greater than a year earlier. Slaughter in March 1944 was only exceeded in one other March - that of 1942. By mid-April the bulk of the sheep and lambs from wheat pastures had been marketed. Fed Western lambs, which made up the largest part of the lambs received at leading markets, sold generally at the highest prices in 16 years. Prices for such lambs at Chicago, during the week ended April 21, sold within the price range of \$15.75 to \$17.00. The average price for good and choice woolled lambs at Chicago during the week was \$17.06, compared with \$16.84 a month earlier, and \$16.32 a year earlier. The average price for good and choice ewes at Chicago during the same period was \$9.50, compared with \$9.62, a month earlier, and \$9.25 a year earlier.

Cold-Storage Stocks of Meat
an All-Time Low

Total holdings of meat and edible offals in cold storage warehouses and meat-packing plants on April 1 were reported to be 564 million pounds, 27 million pounds less than a month earlier and 687 million pounds less than a year earlier. The quantity in storage April 1, 1945 was the lowest for the month on record, whereas a year earlier storage stocks were the highest for the month in over 20 years and were near the all-time high for any month.

During March, storage holdings of beef increased from 133 million to 152 million pounds. Average storage stocks of Beef on April 1, for the years 1940-44, were 140 million pounds. Pork stocks declined from 366 million pounds on March 1, to 326 million pounds on April 1. April 1 pork stocks were less than 1/2 as large as the average for that date in 1940-44.

Table 6.- Cold storage holdings of meats in commercial cold storage warehouses and meat packing plants, average 1940-44, and 1945

Date	Beef		Pork		Lamb and mutton		Other meats and edible offals		Total 1/	
	Average 2/:	1945	Average 2/:	1945	Average 2/:	1945	Average 2/:	1945	Average 2/:	1945
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
January 1	134.6	107.2	519.8	371.4	17.2	20.2	104.9	78.2	776.5	577.0
February 1	135.7	116.1	635.4	407.2	15.4	18.3	109.8	76.0	896.3	617.5
March 1	141.1	133.1	695.7	366.2	13.8	17.2	109.5	75.0	960.2	591.5
April 1	140.4	152.0	682.4	326.4	10.2	15.3	105.0	70.7	938.0	564.4
May 1	127.7		657.9		8.8		99.3		893.6	
June 1	112.4		648.0		7.6		98.0		866.0	
July 1	97.0		628.3		6.9		90.2		822.5	
August 1	89.4		558.4		6.9		91.0		745.7	
September 1	89.2		442.9		8.6		83.9		625.2	
October 1	92.1		338.7		10.5		80.6		522.0	
November 1	103.3		302.5		13.5		75.6		495.0	
December 1	123.4		350.4		17.5		80.3		571.7	

1/ Total of unrounded numbers.

2/ Average data for 1940-44 are not entirely comparable with 1945 figures.

Prior to July 1944 trimmings are included with other meat and are now included with the appropriate meat items. Relatively small quantities of sausage room products and canned meats are not included prior to December 1944. Some meats owned by the Government and stored in commercial warehouses are included in the data.

THE WOOL SITUATIONPrices to United States Growers
May Decline in 1945 If Clean
Yield of Wool is Lower Than
Last Year

The Commodity Credit Corporation is supporting the 1945 domestic wool clip at clean price which are substantially the same as in 1944. The average price received by farmers for greasy wool this year, however, may differ from the 1944 weighted average price of 42.4 cents if the average quality or shrinkage of the 1945 clip differs from that of last year. Market reports indicate that early shorn wools arriving from Western States carry more grease and dirt than early 1944 wools from those States. A small number of lots from Arizona and Idaho which could be compared with early 1944 wools were appraised at lower prices per grease pound than last year's wools, owing to heavier shrinkage, according to reports of the Boston Office of the WFA. Only 6 million pounds of 1945 shorn wool had been appraised for CCC purchase by April 14, however, and this quantity is not large enough to indicate the general condition of the new clip.

Market Prices for Wool Continue Largely Unchanged

Market prices for domestic wool continue unchanged and prices of imported wools in the United States have not changed much in recent months. The CCC is selling all domestic wool at ceiling prices. Likewise, prices of British Government owned wools imported from Australia, New Zealand and the Union of South Africa are largely determined by British Government issue prices which, to the United States, have been unchanged for wools grading 56s and finer since December 1942. Issue prices for grades 56s-50s and coarser have been unchanged since October 1, 1944. The small price fluctuations reported in the United States market for Australian and New Zealand wools reflect changes in importing costs or dealer mark-up.

Prices of South American wools have strengthened since New Army contracts have been placed which require a large quantity of medium grade wool. South American wools are privately owned and prices of such wool fluctuate with changes in market conditions. Prices of these wools in the United States have been about in line with prices of Australian and New Zealand wools, although large supplies are available for export in South American countries. This price relationship is maintained in large part because of the strong demand for South American wools in the United States and the limited shipping space available for bringing them to this country.

Australian combing wools grading 64s and finer were quoted in bond at Boston, at 70-76 cents a pound, scoured basis, early in April. Adding the duty of 34 cents a pound, clean content, these wools were available to mills at approximately \$1.04-1.11 a pound (scoured basis). CCC selling prices for domestic 64-70s combing wools are about \$1.14-1.21 a pound, clean basis. Because of the difference in the preparation of Australian wools before they are marketed, such wools ordinarily sell in the United States at a higher price than comparable domestic wools. The Tariff Commission has estimated that at present this preparation differential on fine wools is about 9 cents a pound, so it appears that current selling

prices of domestic fine wools are about 19 cents a pound higher than prices at which fine Australian wools (converted to a strictly comparable basis) can be imported on the basis of the current British issue prices for these wools. The spread between prices of domestic and British Empire medium grade wools is somewhat smaller than for fine wools. United States buyers, however, obtain most of their imports of medium grade wools from Uruguay and Argentina.

Mill Consumption to Continue

About at 1944 level During 1945

Total United States consumption of domestic and foreign apparel wool in 1945 seems likely to remain about at the 1944 annual level of 1 billion pounds, grease basis. Even if Army requirements are reduced after V-E Day, a high rate of fabric production will be needed to replenish inventories of civilian fabrics, as production of such fabrics will be small during the first half of this year. Mill consumption of apparel wool in January, the latest month for which data are available, averaged 21.5 million pounds a week (greasy shorn and pulled basis). This compares with a weekly average of 19.2 million pounds in December and 20.1 million pounds in January 1944. The January consumption this year was at an annual rate of 1.1 billion pounds and was the highest rate of consumption since May 1943.

Because of the urgent delivery requirements on recent Army orders for wool fabrics, special efforts have been made to increase production, particularly in the early stages of manufacture where the shortage of skilled labor has been most severely felt. The wool top industry recently was placed on the National production urgency list which gives mills producing tops a high priority in securing workers. Army officers recently were sent into the New England wool textile area to attempt to reduce absenteeism and speed up production through educational implant activities. A similar program in the cotton textile industry was credited with having increased the production of cotton fabrics for military use. If these measures are successful in increasing the production of tops and yarns, mill consumption of wool in the first half of 1945 may be larger than in the corresponding months of 1944 when consumption totaled 517 million pounds (grease basis). Consumption is likely to decline during the summer, however, because of workers' vacations and other seasonal factors.

Decline in Labor Force Continues;

Working Hours Have Increased Moderately

The number of workers employed in the woolen and worsted industry has declined almost continuously since December 1941, and the shortage of skilled workers has been a constant hindrance in efforts to increase mill output. The number employed in all sections of the industry in February this year was 146,000. This compares with 158,900 in February 1944 and the peak of 192,000 in December 1941. The decline in the number of workers has been only partly offset by increased working hours. Working time averaged 42.9 hours per week for the entire industry in February this year compared with 42.3 hours in February 1944, 40.1 in December 1941 and a 1939 average of 36.4 hours. One barrier to increasing working hours in the wool textile industry to offset declines in labor lies in the lack of balance in production schedules particularly in mills which handle all processing stages from the raw material to the finished cloth. Reports from such mills in 1944 indicated that in the early preparatory stages of carding and combing, workers were already averaging a 52-hour week while

the finishing sections were held at little more than a 40-hour week because production of tops and yarns was not large enough to support an increase in weaving and finishing. It is this situation which has been recognized in recent programs for increasing production in the early stages of manufacture.

Almost Half of Government Purchases of
Domestic Wool Unsold

During the first two years of the Government purchase program for domestic wool, the CCC purchased approximately 647 million pounds of wool (grease equivalent basis). Sales for the entire period totaled about 355 million pounds with approximately 292 million pounds (grease basis), or 45 percent of the wool purchased, unsold on March 31, 1945. The March 31 stocks included 123 million pounds still on hand from the 1943 production. Sales during the first year of the program were relatively small, totaling about 92 million pounds (grease basis). Mills and dealers had purchased a large quantity of wool from the 1943 clip before the Government purchase program went into effect and such purchases together with the carry-over from 1942 were sufficient to meet a large part of mill requirements for domestic wool during the 1943 selling season. Sales during the year ended March 31, 1945 totaled about 263 million pounds (grease basis) compared with an estimated domestic production of 418 million pounds.

The greater part of the stocks held by the CCC are fine and half blood wools. These grades constituted 82 percent of the shorn wool and about 57 percent of the pulled wool stocks (actual weight) reported on March 31. About 13 percent of the shorn wool and 39 percent of the pulled wool graded 3/8 blood and 1/4 blood. See table 7.

Army Fabrics Principal Outlet for
Domestic Wool

Army orders which carry a premium for the use of domestic wool provide the principal outlet for such wools at present. Early in 1945, the Army placed large orders for wool fabrics most of which call for the use of at least 50 percent domestic wool. It now seems likely that production of Army fabrics in the first half of 1945 will equal such production for the entire year 1944. New orders have also been placed for delivery during the third quarter of the year, and production for military use may continue to exceed the 1944 production well into the second half. These orders should provide an outlet for a much larger quantity of domestic wool during the first half of the 1945 selling season (Apr.-Sept.) than in the corresponding months last year when CCC sales totaled 114 million pounds, grease basis. The use of domestic wool probably will decline, however, when current large military requirements have been filled. Little domestic wool is now being used in civilian fabrics because prices of domestic wools are higher than prices of comparable imported wools.

Table 7.- Commodity Credit Corporation purchases and sales of domestic wool, 1943 and 1944 wool purchase programs, and stocks owned on March 31, 1945

Type	Actual weight							
	1943 Program				1944 Program			
	Purchases		Sales		Purchases		Sales	
	March 31, 1945		March 31, 1945		March 31, 1945		March 31, 1945	
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
Snorn wool								
Greasy	217,129	117,684	99,445	304,963	157,361	147,602		247,047
Scoured	3,156	1,237	1,919	3,918	1,285	2,633		4,552
Total	220,285	118,921	101,364	308,881	158,646	150,235		251,599
Pulled wool								
Greasy	24,455	15,700	8,755	13,535	7,417	6,118		14,873
Scoured	28,004	21,227	6,777	18,179	12,689	5,490		12,267
Total	52,459	36,927	15,532	31,714	20,106	11,608		27,140
Total shorn and pulled	272,744	155,848	116,896	340,595	178,752	161,843		278,739

1/ Includes wool purchased under the respective programs sold at any time prior to April 1, 1945.

Compiled from reports of the Commodity Credit Corporation, WFA.

Table 8.- Stocks of domestic wool owned by the Commodity Credit Corporation on March 31, 1945, by grades.

Grade	Actual weight.				
	Shorn		Pulled		Total
	Greasy	Scoured	Greasy	Scoured	
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
Fine, 64/70's	154,818	996	2,443	1,538	159,795
Fine medium and 1/2 blood, 60/64s and 60s	48,831	1,358	6,330	5,114	61,683
3/8 blood, 58s, 56s	25,137	1,894	5,369	4,610	37,010
1/4 blood, 50s, 48s 1/	5,195	76	396	316	5,983
Low 1/4 blood, 46/48s	2,611	59	161	66	2,897
Other 2/	10,405	168	174	624	11,371
Total 3/	247,047	4,552	14,873	12,267	278,739

1/ Includes 50/56s scoured wool.

2/ Includes all offsort, which were not reported by grade.

3/ Totals computed from unrounded figures.

Compiled from reports of the Commodity Credit Corporation, W.F.A.

British Stockpile Wool is Being Shipped
To France from the United States

Wool from the British owned stockpile in the United States is now being shipped to France and Belgium. Stockpile wool has been purchased from the British Government by the French Supply Mission, according to press reports from London. These reports indicate that shipments to France of British owned stockpile wool under the first 8-month program will total about 38 million pounds of greasy wool and will be used for French military requirements. Additional shipments will be made to France from the United Kingdom.

Approximately 470 million pounds of British owned wools were stored in the United States by the Defense Supplies Corporation early in 1945. This wool was brought to the United States earlier in the war period to provide a readily available reserve of wool which could be drawn upon for essential requirements if imports were restricted. Except for a small quantity which was exchanged for a like amount of United States owned stockpile wool none of this British owned wool has been released for commercial use in the United States.

British Empire Wool Conference to Consider
Post-War Wool Marketing Problems

A conference is being held at London this month between representatives of the British Government and governments of the Empire wool producing countries to consider the problem of disposing of the large wartime accumulation of British Empire wools in conjunction with the sale of the post-war production. Wool-brokers and wool buyers will be represented at the conference, according to reports from England. No information is available concerning proposals likely to be made. The conferees are expected to report to the governments concerned in the post-war disposal before proceedings are made public. Because the greater part of the world carry-over and current production of apparel wool in the early post-war period will be owned by the British Government, the policies adopted by that Government for post-war sales will be determining factors in the foreign wool price situation. Since the United States is on an import basis for wool, these policies and the policies of the United States Government in regard to tariffs, imports and other supporting measures will be important factors in the domestic price situation.

When, and under what conditions, public auctions will be resumed for the marketing of British Empire wools is likely to be one of the important questions under consideration at the Empire wool conference. Auctions have always been the accepted method of sale in Great Britain and in the Empire countries - Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. All Australian and New Zealand wools were purchased by the British Government from December 1916 until June 1920. The method of resale was similar to the present method of government sale. Auctions for the sale of Australian and New Zealand wools were resumed at London in April 1919, but sales were not reopened in Australia and New Zealand until the latter part of 1920 after the Government purchase agreement was terminated.

Prices per pound of wool and other textile fibers, United States, 1942-45

Item	Annual Average			1944			
	1942			1945			
	1942	1943	1944	Mar.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Prices received by farmers,							
grease basis, 15th of month:	40.1	41.6	42.4	40.4	40.1	40.4	39.9
Boston market:							
Territory, scoured basis							
64s, 70s, 80s staple combing:	119.1	117.8	119.0	119.0	119.0	119.0	119.0
56s combing	102.6	104.2	104.5	104.5	104.5	104.5	104.5
Bright fleece, greasy							
64s, 70s, 80s delaine	47.2	46.9	47.0	47.0	47.5	47.5	47.5
56s combing	51.8	54.2	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.5
Foreign wool, in bond:							
Scoured basis -							
Australian 64s, 70s good t. & top-making 1/	75.4	75.9	72.1	73.5	74.3	75.0	75.0
Cape, short combing	72.8	72.5	72.5	72.5	72.5	72.5	72.5
Grease basis -							
Montevideo 60-64s	43.0	41.4	39.4	40.5	39.2	39.2	39.2
Montevideo 1s (56s)	42.5	41.4	40.7	40.5	41.5	41.5	42.5
Other textile fibers:							
Cotton, 15/16-inch							
Middling 2/	19.3	20.6	21.2	21.1	21.7	21.6	21.8
Rayon staple fiber 3/							
Viscose 1-1/2 denier	25.0	24.4	24.8	24.0	25.0	25.0	25.0
Acetate 5 denier	43.0	43.0	41.9	43.0	38.0	38.0	38.0

Domestic wool prices are from the War Food Administration; foreign wool prices are from the Boston Commercial Bulletin, except as otherwise noted, and are before payment of duty.

1/ Quotations from the War Food Administration. 2/ Average at 10 markets.

3/ F.o.b. producing plants, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Wool: Mill consumption in the United States, 1943-45

Item	Total		Weekly average			
	1943		January			
	1943	1944	1943	1944	1944	1945
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds
Grease basis						
Apparel wool -						
Domestic	430,456	318,250	12,145	5,829	6,554	8,178
Foreign	630,968	690,555	8,962	14,226	12,652	13,304
Total	1,061,424	1,008,805	21,107	20,055	19,206	21,482
Carpet Wool	43,732	60,859	742	1,061	1,299	1,242
Scoured basis:						
Apparel wool -						
Domestic	203,580	150,638	5,667	2,828	3,184	3,901
Foreign	388,284	426,246	5,565	8,731	7,699	8,126
Total	591,864	576,884	11,232	11,559	10,883	12,027
Carpet wool	32,240	45,539	533	782	983	902

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Livestock prices per 100 pounds (except where noted), by species,
March 1945, with comparisons

Item	: 1944 :		March		: 1945		
	: annual:	: 1933-42:	1943 :	1944 :	Jan. :	Feb. :	Mar.
	: average:	: average:	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
<u>Cattle and calves -</u>							
Beef steers sold out of							
first hands at Chicago:							
Choice and Prime	17.05	11.22	16.98	16.37	16.52	16.37	16.82
Good	15.73	9.66	15.92	15.23	15.35	15.42	15.81
Medium	13.87	8.31	14.61	13.59	13.56	13.96	14.57
Common	11.25	7.19	12.91	12.02	11.15	11.94	12.51
All grades	15.44	9.26	15.54	15.12	14.71	15.12	15.64
Good-grade cows at Chicago ...	13.21	6.74	13.99	13.01	14.23	14.52	14.43
Vealers: Good and Choice							
at Chicago	14.86	9.20	16.56	14.55	15.00	15.10	15.92
Stockers and feeder steers ...							
at Kansas City	11.78	7.92	14.49	13.06	12.40	13.00	13.60
Average price paid by packers :							
All cattle	11.08	7.18	13.60	12.65	11.10	12.50	13.13
Steers	---	---	14.85	14.33	13.26	14.25	14.79
Calves	11.59	8.04	14.43	12.89	11.65	12.38	12.91
<u>Hogs</u>							
Average market price at							
Chicago:							
Barrows and gilts	13.77	---	15.61	13.98	14.72	14.75	14.75
Sows	12.75	---	15.38	13.55	14.00	14.00	14.00
All purchases	13.57	8.03	15.59	13.94	14.66	14.70	14.70
Average price paid by							
packers	13.43	7.92	15.26	13.64	14.42	14.54	14.57
Average price No. 3 Yellow							
corn at Chicago 1/	114.6	64.5	100.8	115.5	114.8	115.1	114.9
Hog-corn price ratio at							
Chicago 2/	11.8	12.8	15.5	12.1	12.8	12.8	12.8
<u>Sheep and lambs -</u>							
Wooled lambs, Good and Choice :							
at Chicago	---	9.54	16.16	16.28	15.66	16.59	16.77
Feeding lambs, Good and							
Choice at Omaha	---	3/8.35	14.91	13.25	12.99	13.83	13.90
Ewes, Good and Choice at							
Chicago	---	5.36	8.67	8.83	7.84	9.04	9.58
Average price paid by packers :							
for sheep and lambs	12.08	9.07	15.08	14.92	12.61	14.17	14.94
Index retail meat prices 4/...	111.7	81.1	118.1	112.3	112.0	112.4	---
Index income of industrial							
workers 5/	255.2	84.4	238.7	260.4	252.8	251.9	---

1/ Cents per bushel. 2/ Number of bushels of corn equivalent in value of 100 pounds of live hogs. 3/ Average of 9 years. 4/ Bureau of Labor Statistics, converted to 1924-29 base. 5/ Bureau of Agricultural Economics 1924-29 = 100.

Livestock: Marketings and slaughter statistics, by species
March 1945, with comparisons

Item	Unit	Jan.-Mar.			1944		1945	
		1942	1943	1944	Mar.	Feb.	Mar.	
<u>Cattle and calves -</u>								
Number slaughtered under								
Federal inspection:								
Steers	Thous.	1,488	1,412	1,682	597	556	645	
Cows and heifers	"	1,292	1,199	1,451	419	557	525	
All cattle	"	2,877	2,704	3,240	1,057	1,149	1,213	
Percentage cows and								
heifers are of total								
cattle	Pct.	44.9	44.3	44.8	39.7	48.5	43.3	
Calves	Thous.	1,323	1,081	1,473	565	442	575	
Average live weight:								
Cattle	Lb.	975	977	977	984	968	972	
Calves	"	185	177	172	156	178	162	
Total dressed weight:								
Cattle	Mil. lb.	1,527	1,441	1,686	560	590	633	
Calves	" "	137	106	140	49	43	52	
Shipments of feeder cattle								
and calves to eight Corn								
Belt States 1/	Thous.	304	327	235	73	72	113	
<u>Hogs -</u>								
Number slaughtered under								
Federal inspection:	"	13,857	14,427	22,385	7,165	3,267	3,474	
Average live weight	Lb.	237	252	246	242	246	251	
Percentage packing sows								
are of all purchases at								
seven markets	Pct.	6	6	7	5	4	4	
Total production under								
Federal inspection:								
Pork	Mil. lb.	1,840	2,135	3,101	971	480	524	
Lard 2/	" "	464	452	774	249	92	100	
Average yield per hog:								
Pork	Lb.	133.2	148.3	138.8	135.8	147.5	151.4	
Lard 2/	"	33.6	31.4	34.6	34.8	28.2	28.9	
Cold storage stocks end of								
month:								
Pork	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	792	366	3/326	
Lard 2/	" "	---	---	---	432	65	3/ 51	
<u>Sheep and lambs -</u>								
Number slaughtered under								
Federal inspection	Thous.	4,686	4,718	4,972	1,538	1,622	1,723	
Average live weight	Lb.	95	93	94	95	97	98	
Total dressed weight	Mil. lb.	204	199	212	67	71	76	
Feeder sheep and lambs								
shipments to eight Corn								
Belt States 1/	Thous.	343	590	321	94	77	103	
<u>Total dressed weight of</u>								
<u>livestock slaughtered under:</u>								
Federal inspection	Mil. lb.	4,343	4,502	6,199	1,989	1,311	1,424	

1/ Total shipments direct from public stockyards to Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Nebraska. 2/ Including rendered pork fat. 3/ Preliminary 1945 data for pork stocks not entirely comparable with earlier figures.

Hogs: Estimated number on farms, by classes, January 1, 1924-45

Year	Under 6 months	Over 6 months			Total
		Sows and gilts	Other	Total	
1924	27,880	12,097	26,599	38,696	66,576
1925	23,197	10,091	22,482	32,573	55,770
1926	21,665	10,484	19,956	30,440	52,105
1927	23,647	11,194	20,655	31,849	55,496
1928	26,011	11,048	24,814	35,862	61,873
1929	25,371	10,703	22,968	33,671	59,042
1930	24,685	9,640	21,330	31,020	55,705
1931	24,338	9,776	20,721	30,497	54,835
1932	27,340	9,768	22,193	31,961	59,301
1933	29,719	9,975	22,433	32,408	62,127
1934	27,581	8,654	22,386	31,040	58,621
1935	15,425	6,078	17,563	23,641	39,066
1936	20,024	7,714	15,237	22,951	42,975
1937	21,234	7,104	14,745	21,849	43,083
1938	21,025	7,560	15,940	23,500	44,525
1939	25,111	9,460	15,441	24,901	50,012
1940	30,017	9,402	21,696	31,098	61,115
1941	26,285	8,533	19,438	27,971	54,256
1942	30,972	10,649	18,756	29,405	60,377
1943	38,316	13,269	22,151	35,420	73,736
1944	42,319	10,792	30,741	41,533	83,852
1945 1/	27,812	9,496	23,352	32,848	60,660

1/ Preliminary.